

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A cap for a tube in which a liquid medicine flows, said cap being detachably connected to a distal end of the tube, comprising:

a passage for communicating with the tube and the outside, and having an inlet port through which the medicine flows into the passage from the tube;

a liquid absorption member disposed at or near the inlet port in the passage to surround the passage; and

a gas permeable and liquid impermeable filter for blocking the passage at a position farther than the liquid absorption member from the inlet port,

wherein said cap is detached from the tube when supplying the medicine to a subject.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid absorption member is made of a sponge material.

4. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid absorption member is made of a fiber material.

5. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter is made of a porous plastic resin material.

6. (previously presented): The cap as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a main body which includes an outer wall and a connection projection provided radially inward of the outer wall, and in which the other end opposite to an end of the main body with the connection projection provided thereon is open, and the passage is formed and the liquid absorption member is received; and
a closure which is connected to close the other open end of the main body and includes an exhaust hole that communicates with the passage and is blocked by the filter.

7. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 6, wherein the connection projection comprises a tube extending inward and outward of the end of the outer wall, and the absorption member is fixedly fitted between the outer wall of the main body and an inward extension of the connection projection.

8. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 6, wherein the closure further comprises an extension for isolating the absorption member and the filter from each other.

9. (previously presented): A liquid medicine supplying apparatus for supplying a liquid medicine, comprising:
a liquid medicine reservoir;

a pressure device for applying pressure to the liquid medicine stored in the liquid medicine reservoir;

a tube connected to the liquid medicine reservoir; and

a cap according to claim 1 connected to the distal end of the tube.

10. (previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a flow control device including a member that is connected to the cap and is to be removed according to the detachment of the cap from the tube when supplying the liquid medicine to a subject.